

CELLULOID

Celluloid was invented in 1870 by two New Jerseyans, the Hyatt brothers. In 1863, two American industrialists offered a prize of \$10,000 to anyone who could develop a substitute for ivory to use in the manufacture of billiard balls. John Hyatt, a businessman from New York State, set out to work on the problem with his brother. After seven years of research, they obtained celluloid by hot mixing cellulose nitrate, a macromolecular vegetable substance and camphor, a plasticizer.

The discovery took place at their factory in Newark, Essex County, New Jersey.